

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for use in a computer system for converting a text representation of a number into a numeric representation of the number, said article of manufacture comprising a computer-usable storage medium having a computer program embodied in said medium which causes the computer system to execute the computer program to perform operations, the operations comprising:

maintaining a correspondence of number format descriptions to converters;

converting the text representation of the number into a description of the number's format;

mapping the description of the number's format to the converter corresponding to the description of the number's format, wherein the converter comprises a sequence of conversion code; and

executing the converter corresponding to the description of the number's format to convert [[converting]] the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number by use of the sequence of conversion code.

2. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the description of the number's format is a picture string.

3 (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the text representation of the number is converted into a description of the number's format by a translate instruction using a translate table.

4. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the sequence of conversion code for converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number comprises an assignment statement.

5. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein the mapping of the description of the number's format to ~~a sequence of conversion code~~ the converter comprises mapping the description of the number's format to an index which is used to transfer control to the ~~sequence of conversion code~~ converter corresponding to the description of the number's format.

6. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 1 wherein if the text representation of the number does not convert into the description of the number's format, then not executing the subsequent mapping and converting steps.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a computer system for converting a text representation of a number into a numeric representation of the number, said method comprising:

maintaining a correspondence of number format descriptions to converters;

converting the text representation of the number into a description of the number's format;

mapping the description of the number's format to the convertor corresponding to the description of the number's format, wherein the convertor comprises a sequence of conversion code; and

executing the convertor corresponding to the description of the number's format to convert [[converting]] the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number by use of the sequence of conversion code.

8. (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein the description of the number's format is a picture string.

9. (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein the text representation of the number is converted into a description of the number's format by a translate instruction using a translate table.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the sequence of conversion code for converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number comprises an assignment statement.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7 wherein the mapping of the description of the number's format to ~~a sequence of conversion code~~ the converter comprises mapping the description of the number's format to an index which is used to transfer control to the ~~sequence of conversion code~~ converter corresponding to the description of the number's format.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein if the text representation of the number does not convert into the description of the number's format, then not executing the subsequent mapping and converting steps.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer system for converting a text representation of a number into a numeric representation of the number, said computer system comprising:

maintaining a correspondence of number format descriptions to converters;

a ~~[[converter]]~~ format generator for converting the text representation of the number into a description of the number's format;

a translator for mapping the description of the number's format to the converter ~~corresponding to the description of the number's format, wherein the convertor comprises a sequence of conversion code, and wherein the converter corresponding to the description of the number's format is executed to convert;~~ and a converter for converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number by use of the sequence of conversion code of the converter.

14. (Original) The computer system of claim 13 wherein the description of the number's format is a picture string.

15. (Original) The computer system of claim 13 wherein the text representation of the number is converted into a description of the number's format by a translate instruction using a translate table.

16. (Original) The computer system of claim 13 wherein the sequence of conversion code for converting the text representation of the number into the numeric representation of the number comprises an assignment statement.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 13 wherein the mapping of the description of the number's format to ~~a sequence of conversion code~~ converter comprises mapping the description of the number's format to an index which is used to transfer control to the ~~sequence of conversion code~~ converter to the description of the number's format.

18. (Original) The computer system of claim 13 wherein if the text representation of the number does not convert into the description of the number's format, then not executing the subsequent mapping and converting steps.